

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 11, 2005

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1877

Honorable Members
Twenty-Third Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 1877, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Office of Planning."

The purpose of this bill is to require the Office of Planning to report only to the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and to clarify that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism has the sole jurisdiction over the Land Use Commission, state planning, and the Hawaii State Planning Act.

This bill is objectionable because it limits my administration's flexibility in executing programs and functions to achieve maximum results. There is a necessary and publicly significant relationship between the Office of Planning within Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The Office of Planning's major statutory responsibilities of land use planning, coastal zone management, and geographic information systems are consistent with and complement the Department of Land and Natural Resources core functions of land management and protection of resources. The relationship between the Office of Planning and the Department of Land and Natural Resources has been carried out with the public's interest as their foremost consideration.

My administrative directive instructing the Office of Planning to consult with and report to the Chairperson of the

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS
SENATE BILL NO. 1877
Page 2

Board of Land and Natural Resources has resulted in meaningful, productive, and successful undertakings in land use planning issues and has been beneficial to the public discourse on these critical topics, particularly through proceedings of the Land Use Commission. The current working relationship is consistent with the Legislature's call for more prudent, efficient, and effective government operations.

Further, it is objectionable that the legislature has required the Director of the office to be subject to the confirmation process. This position was recently filled. Since its establishment in 1987, the Director of the Office of Planning has been hired through the normal appointment process. Because the scope & duties of this position have not changed, it appears the motivation to subject this position to the confirmation process is suspect.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 1877 without my approval.

Respectfully,

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii